

# Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515

January 8, 2007

The Honorable R. David Paulison  
Director  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street S.W.  
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Director Paulison:

As you continue to evaluate the request from Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich for federal emergency disaster assistance for the State of Illinois due to the severe winter storms that occurred November 30, 2006 to December 1, 2006, we respectfully request that you give strong consideration to Madison, Monroe, St. Clair, Bond, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Montgomery, Sangamon, and Shelby counties.

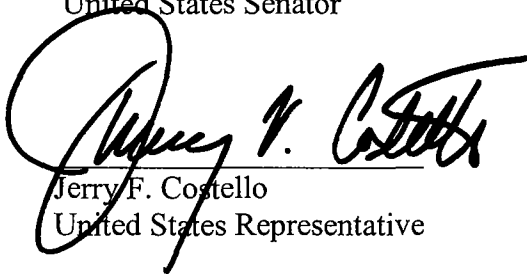
As you are aware, President Bush recently issued an emergency declaration for 26 counties in Illinois. However, none of the counties in Southern Illinois received a declaration. Thousands of homes and businesses were without power in this region and an emergency declaration is needed to assist the people and governments to successfully rebuild and recover from this natural disaster. As a result of extraordinary ice formation during these winter storms, many of these counties in Southern Illinois continue to struggle with the costs of ongoing debris removal.

We look forward to hearing from you in the near future. Please let us know if we can provide additional information or be of assistance in any other way.

Sincerely,



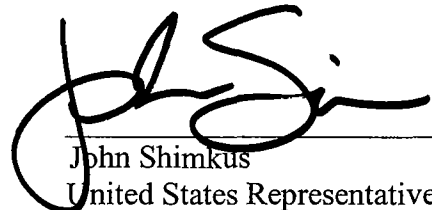
Richard Durbin  
United States Senator



Jerry F. Costello  
United States Representative



Barack Obama  
United States Senator



John Shimkus  
United States Representative